

BURR OAK WOODS CONSERVATION NATURE CENTER is located one mile north of I-70 on Hwy 7, one mile west on Park Road. The Nature Center is open Monday through Saturday 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. and noon to 5:00 p.m. on Sundays. Area Hours: During Day Light Savings 8:00 a.m. to 8:00 p.m. No pets are allowed. There is no admission fee. Phone: 816-228-3766 TDD: 816-655-6268

**Help protect your environment.  
Recycle you fishing line  
at Burr Oak Woods  
Conservation  
Nature Center  
To learn more visit –  
[www.berkley-fishing.com](http://www.berkley-fishing.com)**



# The Nutshell

Burr Oak Woods Conservation Nature Center Newsletter

Volume 20 June 2006 Number 06



## Basic Tracking:

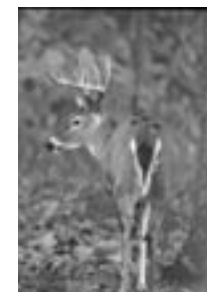
## The Story That Lies in the Ground



Three cardinals were singing as we made our way past the pond, one from the east, one from the north and one from the west of where we were standing. The birds were singing in a nice steady tempo continueing, one from the north, then west and then east.



The juncos were feeding close by and I decided to trip the alarm so the individual I was teaching could experience an alarm sequence within nature. The juncos were forced out of their harmonic state, and within moments the cardinals stopped singing. Had the student noticed anything different? He noticed that the singing had stopped, but before we had finished our conversation, about 300 yards away the secondary alarm of a squirrel was heard. The deer was aware of our presence. We were down wind of the deer so it wasn't our scent that caused our detection. It was from juncos! We stopped and listened carefully. Just as the squirrel alarm had paused, a Carolina Wren began to sing not 25 yards west from where we were standing. We would stay here for a few moments



until everything settled back down. In short time the wren stopped singing and the juncos started feeding again. The cardinals, in tempo, started their singing. The all clear. We made our way down the draw, and about 15 minutes later we saw five deer staring at us half way



down the ridge from where we heard the squirrel's alarm call. We found the place that the deer had been bedding on the east side of the ridge. The sign showed that they had been disturbed and brought out of their day beds. Their tracks led down into the draw heading in our direction for a better view of what had caused the alarm. What did the deer hear that caused them to get out of their beds? Was it our footsteps, our quiet conversation while the wind was blowing softly in our faces, or was it the juncos that stopped the cardinals in their song?

What does this experience have to do with tracking? Tracking is one of the best ways to confirm and unravel the alarm sequence in nature. The story lies in the ground, out in the voice of nature!



*Rick Bedsworth, Volunteer Naturalist*

## To promote awareness and citizen stewardship of natural resources

*through science-based education and community service*

We are excited to announce the formation of The Greater Kansas City Chapter of the Missouri Master Naturalist Program. Burr Oak Woods is a partner in this new chapter.

The Missouri Master Naturalist program is an adult community-based natural resource education and volunteer service program. Started in 2004 with two chapters in central Missouri, the program continues to expand. The program is sponsored by the Missouri Department of Conservation and the University of Missouri Extension.

Discover how you can learn more about Missouri's natural resources and be a part of managing those resources through hands-on conservation activities. Become a Missouri Master Naturalist™.

You are invited to attend an orientation and informational meeting: **Tuesday, June 20, 7:00 p.m.**

To register for this meeting please call: 816-228-3766 For more information about the program visit the web at: [www.monaturalist.org](http://www.monaturalist.org).

*"We did not weave the web of life; we are merely a strand in it. Whatever we do to the web, we do to ourselves."*

*Attributed to Chief Noah Sealath*



**Helping Missourians connect with nature and conserve it, too!**



*The Nutshell*

Burr Oak Woods Conservation Nature Center  
Missouri Department of Conservation  
1401 NW Park Road - Blue Springs, Mo 64015

PRSR.TSTD.  
US POSTAGE PAID  
JEFFERSON CITY MO  
PERMIT 274

Become a Part of the  
Outdoor Skills Adventure!

If you love to have fun outdoors, and would like to learn new skills, then this program is for you! Teamwork and safety will be stressed. Making new friends is encouraged! Join us in June as we learn the basics of these outdoor skills:

- Air Rifles:** Have you always wanted to learn how to shoot a rifle? Then come on out. We will learn how to aim and shoot at a target. Gun safety will be stressed. You are guaranteed to have fun and stay safe in this program...but can you hit the bulls-eye?
- Archery:** Archery is just plain fun! Join us on the Prairie Archery Range to develop your skills with a compound bow! Wait until you try the challenge!
- Canoeing:** Missouri has over 57,000 miles of floatable streams! Let's launch our boats on the pond and learn the skills that you will need to plan a float trip of your very own. We'll even teach you the most sought after paddling technique. Very few have mastered this skill. But, you must promise to keep it a secret...
- Compass:** It is important for outdoor enthusiasts to be able to navigate in the wilderness. When we hike or canoe, we do not travel in a straight line. We follow the terrain or the river. You can become disoriented or you may get lost. You cannot work without the proper tools. By learning how to use a compass, you will be able to explore with new found confidence and freedom!
- Letterboxing:** What do you get when you cross topographical map reading with treasure hunting? Why, Letterboxing of course! Letterboxing is a unique way to learn map skills and to explore the natural treasures of the outdoors. Bring your spirit of adventure!

These skills will be offered as a block of classes. These blocks will be offered for various age groups and at different times and days in June. The morning block will be scheduled from 8:30 a.m. – 12:00 p.m. The afternoon block will be scheduled from 12:30 p.m. – 4:00 p.m.

**Block I:**  
Air Rifles, Archery, Canoeing

**Block II:**  
Fishing, Compass 101, Topographical Maps/  
Letterboxing

Participants will sign up for ½ day block of classes at a time, if you want to participate in the Outdoor Skills Challenge you must complete both blocks. You may stay for the entire day or attend the blocks on two different days. The Outdoor Skills Challenge will be offered June 8, 15, and 22.

We will provide water throughout the day. Participants that stay for the entire day will need to bring a sack lunch. Don't forget sunscreen, insect repellent and a hat! Registration beginning May 22 is required. Due to safety, age requirements are enforced. Please call to register

Ages 8 – 11		
DATE	8:30 – 12:00	12:30 – 4:00
JUNE 5	Block I	Block II
JUNE 7	Block II	Block I
JUNE 13	Block I	Block II
JUNE 19	Block II	Block I
JUNE 21	Block I	Block II

Ages 12 and up		
DATE	8:30 – 12:00	12:30 – 4:00
JUNE 6	Block I	Block II
JUNE 12	Block II	Block I
JUNE 14	Block I	Block II
JUNE 20	Block II	Block I

Families with children ages 7 and up		
DATE	6:00 – 8:30	
JUNE 15	Block I	

Outdoor Skills Challenge		
DATE	9:00 – 11:00	1:00 – 3:00
JUNE 8	Ages 8 – 11	Ages 12 and up
JUNE 15	Ages 12 and up	Ages 8 – 11
JUNE 22	Ages 8 – 11	Ages 12 and up

Watch for Intermediate Outdoor Skills in July! These classes are reserved for participants that have attended a previous traditional outdoor skills camp at Burr Oak Woods.

Natural Happenings

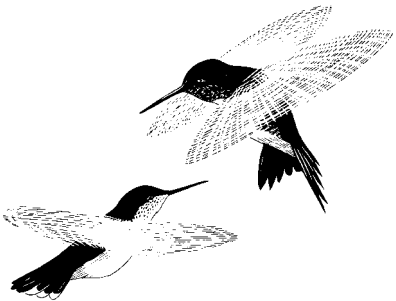
Gooseberries are beginning to ripen. Time to make some gooseberry jam!

Wild turkey eggs are hatching!

Tadpoles of the American toad are growing legs and metamorphizing into adult toads.

Summer must be here! Dog-day cicadas are beginning to sing.

Hummingbirds are visiting blooming trumpet creeper flowers.



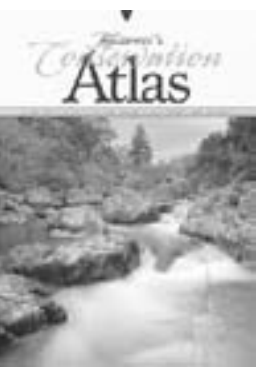
Copyrighted 1999-2001 by Zack Zdinak

Nature Shop News

June  
Featured Product

Missouri  
Bird Calls CD

20% Off Regular Price  
Heritage Card Discount  
Does Not Apply



NOW AVAILABLE  
Conservation  
Atlas

\$19.<sup>00</sup> plus tax

Receive a 15% discount with your  
Heritage Card

Family Fishing  
Saturday, June 3 or 17, 2006  
9:00 – 11:00 a.m.

Families (with children 5 yr and up)

It's spring and that means it's time to bait the hooks and have some good ol' fashioned fun at the Burr Oak Woods' educational pond. We'll provide all the equipment and worms. Bring your child(ren) and we'll teach them the basics of fishing and then they'll try their luck. **ATTENDEES 16 TO 65 YR MUST HAVE A VALID FISHING LICENSE**, available for purchase at the Nature Center. Please call to register 816-228-3766.

2006 FIRST ANNUAL  
CONSERVATION  
SCIENCE FAIR

THE FOLLOWING ARE AWARD WINNERS FROM THE HOME SCHOOL CONSERVATION SCIENCE FAIR. WE HAD 35 FANTASTIC ENTRIES FROM STUDENTS IN ALL THREE AGE GROUPS. THESE STUDENTS LEARNED ABOUT RESEARCH BY FOLLOWING THE SCIENTIFIC METHOD. IT IS EXCITING TO SEE THE WORK OF THESE FUTURE SCIENTISTS! ALL 35 ENTRANTS ARE WINNERS! THANKS FOR SHARING YOUR RESEARCH WITH BURR OAK WOODS!

AGES 6 – 8

- 1ST PLACE: OPENING NIGHT BY THOMAS HITCHCOCK  
2ND PLACE: BIRDS EAT DUR DURS BY SHANNON O'KELLEY  
3RD PLACE: THE ONION BOY BY NOAH JONES

AGES 9 – 11

- 1ST PLACE: WHOO GOES THERE BY JULIE HITCHCOCK  
2ND PLACE: AIR PRESSURE BY RACHEL UPDEGRAVE  
3RD PLACE: BUG EYED BY JOEY ARNDT

AGES 12 AND UP

- 1ST PLACE: BIRD'S EYE VIEW BY NATHAN ARNDT  
2ND PLACE: DECAYING FRUIT BY SAMUEL YORK  
3RD PLACE: KILLER RAIN BY MOLLY DIECHMAN

AWARD OF EXCELLENCE  
WHO GOES THERE BY JULIE HITCHCOCK



# June Programs

## PROGRAM REGISTRATION

Please call 816-228-3766 (TDD 816-655-6268) **ON OR AFTER THE FIRST OF THE MONTH** to register for the free programs listed. It is important to arrive five minutes before the program time. If you have to cancel, please call as soon as possible so someone on the waiting list can attend.

**2 Friday, 7:00 – 8:00 p.m.**

**Bluegrass Missourians in Concert**

**All ages** (children 12 and under must be with an adult)

Join us on this beautiful spring evening for a concert in the woods. The Bluegrass Missourians have played a variety of venues in six states. They have performed for several years at Silver Dollar City and Shepherd of the Hills near Branson. The Bluegrass Missourians have produced 11 commercial albums. This outdoor concert will be a quality, family-oriented performance you will not want to miss! Please call to register.

**3 Saturday, 10:00 – 11:00 a.m.**

**Babes in the Woods:**

**Bugs, Bees and Butterflies**

**Ages Infant – 2**

During this class we will share ideas and activities to help your infant or toddler learn to appreciate the members of the bug world they will encounter in the outdoors. We will take a walk on one of our trails, so bring a stroller. Please call to register.

**3 Saturday, 10:00 – 11:00 a.m.**

**Rockin’ & Readin’ Nature Tales**

**Ages 2 and up**

Join us for the story hour as we lead you on fantastic nature adventures! We will meet butterflies, birds, mammals, and all sorts of magnificent creatures! We will cross rivers, discover mysteries within the forest, and fly across the prairies. We are only limited by our imagination. Your child(ren) will not want to miss these stories of exploration and discovery. No registration required.

**4 Sunday, 1:00 – 2:30 p.m.**

**Hop To It!**

**Families (with children 3 and up)**

Did you ever wonder the difference between a frog and a toad? Why do they sing? Do toads really give you warts? These and other questions will be answered. Then we will meet a frog and a toad and make toad houses for your yard. Please bring an 8 inch clay pot to make your toad abode. Please call to register.

**6 Tuesday, 8:00 – 9:30 a.m.**

**Bird Walk**

**Adults (20 and up)**

Join Naturalist Diane Neal for a bird walk along the trails of Burr Oak Woods. We’ll head out in search of summer feathered visitors. Bring your binoculars and a field guide (we’ll provide these for those of you that don’t have any) and dress for the weather. Please call to register.

**10 Saturday, 9:00 – 11:00 a.m.**

**Women’s Only Skeet Shooting**

**Women 18 and up**

Skeet shooting is the featured activity in the Women’s Only Conservation Series. We will meet at Lake City Shooting Range and begin with a safety and instruction class before we go out for a fun event of skeet shooting! Please call Burr Oak Woods to register.

**10 Saturday, 9:00 a.m. – 2:00 p.m.**

**Burr Oak Woods Hiking Adventure:**

**Eddy Balentine & Blue River Glades Trail**

**Adults (20 and up)**

We will be hiking the Eddy Balentine & Blue River Glades Trail located just South of the Blue River Golf Course by Swope Park. The trail is 2.5 miles long and rated difficult because of the steep hillsides, stream crossings and uneven trail surfaces. We’ve hiked it before and by taking our time it doesn’t seem as difficult. It is a beautiful hike containing mostly forested areas with outcropping limestone rock, and two glades. We will depart from Burr Oak Woods at 9:00 a.m. and return by 2:00 p.m. Wear sturdy shoes and don’t forget to bring water and snacks. Please call to register.

**10 Saturday, 9:00 a.m. – 10:30 a.m.**

**What Makes a Bird, a Bird?**

**Families (with children 8 and up)**

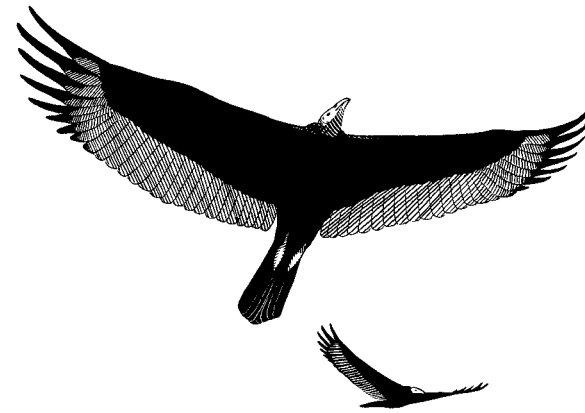
Join a naturalist for a discussion on this feathery subject. Birds are a unique group of animals that carry the tools to help them do their job in nature. Afterward we will head out on a hike to observe these creatures in their habitats. Bring your binoculars and field guides or burrow one of ours. Please call to register.

**11 Sunday, 1:00 – 2:30 p.m.**

**Jumpin’ Amphibians!**

**Families (with children 5 and up)**

Are you not sure of the differences between a frog and toad? Come out and learn some fascinating facts about these jumping amphibians. Meet a representative from both groups. We will then head out on a hike in search of these critters. Dress for the weather. Please call to register.



**13 Tuesday, 10:00 – 11:00 a.m. or 1:00 – 2:00 p.m.**

**Little Acorns: On the Wings of a Turkey Vulture!**

**Ages 3 – 6**

From bad table manners to bad hygiene, they’re so gross it’s fascinating! This month we will be exploring Naturalist Diane Neal’s FAVORITE bird...THE TURKEY VULTURE! Come learn about this unique animal’s habits and explore the prairie in hopes of spotting this flying phenomenon! Please call to register.

**15 Thursday, 10:00 – 11:00 a.m. or 1:00 – 2:00 p.m.**

**Little Acorns: On the Wings of a Turkey Vulture!**

**Ages 3 – 6**

From bad table manners to bad hygiene, they’re so gross it’s fascinating! This month we will be exploring Naturalist Diane Neal’s FAVORITE bird...THE TURKEY VULTURE! Come learn about this unique animal’s habits and explore the prairie in hopes of spotting this flying phenomenon! Please call to register.

**16 Friday, 8:00 – 10:00 a.m.**

**The Wild Ones: Wild Edibles Hike**

**Adults (20 and up)**

Meet Volunteer Naturalist Frances Mathews on the Little Blue Trace Trails for a Wild Edible’s Hike. Each participant is asked to bring a favorite wild edible’s dish to share. Don’t forget the recipe! Please bring water bottle and wear sturdy shoes. Call the Nature Center for directions. Please call to register.

**17 Saturday, 9:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m.**

**Fly Fishing 101**

**Ages 12 and up**

**Morning Session: Fly Tying: 9:00 a.m. – Noon**

Learn how to tie your own flies and enjoy the satisfaction of catching fish using your creations. You will learn the basic terms, tools, and skills that are needed by a beginning fly tier. You will have the opportunity to practice tying a fly of your own. Lunch is on your own.

**Afternoon Session: Fly Fishing: 1:00 – 4:00 p.m.**

Would you like to learn how to fly fish? This program will cover basic equipment, how to tie the knots you will use, the types of flies and when to use what fly, and basic casts. You will even be able to practice your new skills on the Burr Oak Woods Education pond. Please call to register

**17 Saturday, 10:00 – 11:00 a.m.**

**Little Acorns: On the Wings of a Turkey Vulture!**

**Ages 3 – 6**

From bad table manners to bad hygiene, they’re so gross it’s fascinating! This month we will be exploring Naturalist Diane Neal’s FAVORITE bird...THE TURKEY VULTURE! Come learn about this unique animal’s habits and explore the prairie in hopes of spotting this flying phenomenon! Please call to register.

**20 Tuesday, 7:00 p.m.**

**Missouri Master Naturalist Orientation**

**Adults (20 and up)**

Burr Oak Woods is a partner in the creation of the new Greater Kansas City Chapter of the Missouri Master Naturalist program. We invite you to find out more about this incredible program. You can develop your skills as a naturalist, resource scientist, botanist, educator, or recreational specialist with the Missouri Master Naturalist Program. This will be an informational meeting. Bring your questions and discover the program that you’ll fall in love with! Please call to register.

**24 Saturday, 9:00 a.m. – 2:00 p.m.**

## Prairie Day

**All ages**

Big bluestem and Indian Grass are dressed in their spring gala, the prairies are dotted with the colors of tall wildflowers -- and we’re celebrating! Join us on Saturday, June 24 from 9:00 a.m. to 2 p.m. for a trip back in time as we share our love of prairies and days gone by. You’ll listen to the stories of the past and old-time tunes. A variety of crafters will be present, from quilters to basket maker. There will be plenty for the kids including horse-drawn wagon rides, old-time prairie games, Native American Indian dancing, storytelling and more. We’ll even have free lunch for the first visitors. This will be a truly great time for families of all sizes and ages. No registration is required.



**For more information call us at 816-228-3766 or visit our web site at <http://mdc.mo.gov/areas/cnc/burroak/>**



# Prairie Day

at Burr Oak Woods

Saturday, June 24, 2006

9:00 a.m. – 2:00 p.m.

*Big bluestem and Indian Grass are dressed in their spring gala, the prairies are dotted with the colors of tall wildflowers -- and we're celebrating! Join us on Saturday, June 24 from 9:00 a.m. to 2 p.m. for a trip back in time as we share our love of prairies and days gone by. You'll listen to the stories of the*

*past and old-time tunes. A variety of crafters will be present, from quilters to basket*

*maker. There will be plenty for the kids including horse-drawn wagon rides, old-time prairie games, native American Indian dancing, storytelling and more. We'll even have free lunch. This will be a truly great time for families of all sizes and ages. No registration is required.*



For more information call us at 816-228-3766 or visit our web site at <http://mdc.mo.gov/areas/cnc/burroak/>

## Burr Oak Woods Junior Naturalist Program

*I can't wait to tell you about this program! To become a Junior Naturalist you will follow activities outlined in a special workbook designed just for you (available at the front desk). The great thing about this program is that you can complete the activities with your family at your own pace. You will play Nature Bingo, do a habitat study, plan your own wildlife habitat, participate in a treasure hunt, become a nature educator, and much, much more! Upon completion of your notebook, you will earn a cool prize and a certificate that will identify you as a student of nature and someone who cares about the natural world. Check out the Junior Naturalist exhibit in the nature center for more information. You will want to get started today!*

*Shalena Tolbert, Naturalist*

## July programs to sign up for in June

**July 1, Saturday, 10:00 – 11:30 a.m.**

**Missouri Conservation Frontiers: ABC Nature Hunt**

**All ages (children 12 and under must be with an adult)**

A is for Alfalfa butterfly...B is for Burr Oak...C is for Chipmunk. Join us as we search for items in nature that begin with each letter of the alphabet. Dress for the weather. Please call to register.

**July 1, Saturday or July 2, Sunday, 1:00 – 4:00 p.m.**

**Summer Scavenger Hunt**

**Families (all ages)**

What better way to spend this summer holiday weekend than outdoors? Grab your family and head out to Burr Oak Woods for a summer scavenger hunt! Stop by the nature center to pick up a Summer Scavenger Hunt worksheet and head outdoors on your own as you hunt for the items on the list. Dress for the weather. No registration required.

**July 6, Thursday, 10:00 – 11:00 a.m.**

**Life Under a Fallen Log**

**Ages 2 – 3**

Many visitors only look for the BIG animals as they hike the trails at Burr Oak Woods. They never stop to see the small communities under trees and rocks in the forest. In this Go Wild program, we will head straight out to the trail in search of fallen logs and uncover the mysteries underneath. Please call to register.

**July 6, Thursday, 1:00 – 3:00 p.m.**

**Go WILD at Burr Oak Woods**

**Ages 9 – 12**

*Like the winds and sunsets, wild things were taken for granted until progress began to do away with them. Now we face the question of whether a still higher standard of living is worth its cost in things natural, wild, and free.*

*Aldo Leopold*

Join the naturalists as we take a walk on the WILD SIDE while exploring the winds and sunset, and search for the wild animals that call this Burr Oak Woods home. We will use Aldo Leopold's Sand County Almanac as our guide and nature as our textbook. Dress for hiking cross-country. Bring water bottle and wear sturdy shoes. Please call to register.

**July 7, Friday, 9:00 a.m. – Noon**

**WET and WILD!**

**Ages 9 – 2**

Burr Oak Creek has many delightful secrets just waiting to be discovered. Go Wild with us as we explore its hidden wonders. Your children will learn how to do a scientific survey, as well as participate in wet and wild fun-filled activities as we wade the creek. Dress to get wet and muddy! Bring a towel and change of clothes. Join in on the fun! Please call to register.



**JUNE PROGRAMS AT  
LAKE CITY RANGE**

28900 E Argo Road  
Grain Valley, Mo 64029  
816-229-4448

[www.mdc.state.mo/areas/ranges/lakecity](http://www.mdc.state.mo/areas/ranges/lakecity)

We are pleased to let people know about several of the programs offered by the Missouri Department of Conservation's Lake City Range. Be sure to call 816-229-4448 for information and to register for these programs.

**1 Thursday, 6 – 8 pm  
Youth Air Rifle**

**9 Friday, 8 – 12:00 pm  
Bank fishing for Panfishing**

**10 Saturday, 9 – 11 am  
Women's Trap Shooting Clinic**

**14 Wednesday, 6 – 8 pm  
Youth .22 cal  
Metallic Target Shooting**

**15 Thursday, 6 – 8 pm  
How-to Chronograph**

**17 Saturday, 8 – 11 am  
Lady's Firearm Safety Ph. II**

**24 Saturday, 9 – 11 am  
Family Trap Shooting Clinic**